

CASE STUDY: THE STATE OF DANCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is one of three mega-cities for the arts in the United States. It is disproportionately represented by artists, as are New York and Los Angeles. However, even so, the arts, and especially dance, struggle to survive.

Small and medium dance companies are under severe economic stress. They are under-capitalized and under-institutionalized, often overwhelmingly so.

The sense of isolation often expressed by artists may come from being overburdened.

Dancers' incomes are unstable.

Major Topics:

Infrastructure:

Significant stress on leaders of small and mid-size companies, which may limit artistic activity and maturation.

Lack of financial and personnel support may create instability/volatility.

There is a need for funding for general operations, shared/centralized information, and support services.

Performance Opportunities

Dilemma of getting work seen, without severe financial liabilities.

Access to performance spaces, esp. 200 to 400 seat venues, and multi-purpose spaces (research, rehearsal, works-in-progress).

Information about available space.

Services:

Information regarding funding, space, contacts, classes, calendars. Need for shared administrative/support services.

Funding:

Infrastructure is particularly under-funded. There are no funding programs to allow small, entry-level companies to grow.

Unpredictable funding, difficult to plan for long term.

Recognition:

Need reviews in the media.

Ethnic/genre dance communities are under-valued, and need recognition.